REMARKS

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found at FIG. 2 and at page 5, lines 22-30 of the specification, for example.

Claims 1-15 and 18-20 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. **REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-15 AND 18-20 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER <u>SREY</u> (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,141,436) IN VIEW OF <u>BONGIORNO</u> (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,292,045) AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF <u>BRIGHT</u> (U.S. PATENT NO. 4,262,329):**

Various embodiments of the present invention provide the advantage of even if a computer to which the data converter of the present invention, for example, as recited in claim 1, is connected, falls into the hands of other people, important data stored in the computer is prevented from being read out (see page 3, lines 6-10 of the specification).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "the data converter includes a connector part configured to directly connect to and disconnect from a slot part of the external device such that the data converter insertably connects to and disconnects from the external device so as to allow data exchange between the data converter and the external device," as recited in amended claim 1, for example.

Neither of the foregoing references relied upon, individually or combined, disclose these features.

<u>Srey</u> merely discloses a portable communication device (i.e., cellular phone, for example), having a fingerprint identification system. The identification system includes a scanner to permit a finger to generate an actuation force for a switch of the device when the fingerprint is positioned on the scanner. A transmitter of the device transmits data representative of the image of the fingerprint to a remote site when the data does not match data representative of a reference fingerprint (see Abstract and FIG. 5, for example). At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that <u>Srey</u> fails to disclose the Applicants "data conversion unit" and "lock system" as recited in claim 1, for example. However, the Examiner asserts that <u>Bongiorno</u> makes up for the deficiencies of <u>Srey</u>. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

<u>Bongiorno</u> merely discloses a circuit used in cellular phones, for example, coupling between at least two clock sources and a timer of a microprocessor-based system or a microprocessor of a microprocessor-based system to protect the microprocessor-based system from a control failure, a system lockup, equipment faults and so forth (see column 1, lines 10-15; and column 2, lines 32-35). At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that <u>Bongiorno</u>

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discloses the Applicants "lock system" at column 1, lines 30-39 for example. However, the Applicants respectfully submit that column 1, lines 30-39 of <u>Bongiorno</u> merely disclose guarding against a system lockup for example, which may be invoked by electrical noise, electrostatic discharge, power glitches and so forth. That is, to prevent equipment faults. The watchdog timer generates a signal to reset the microprocessor and to disable the microprocessor-based chip after a preset time out period has elapsed when the chip has experienced a control failure or system lockup. The watchdog timer of <u>Bongiorno</u> is not comparable to the Applicants "lock system" as recited in amended claim 1, for example. That is, the watchdog timer of <u>Bongiorno</u> only performs after the chip has experienced a control failure or system lockup, to either reset the microprocessor or disable it the chip to prevent damage.

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that the combination of <u>Srey</u> and <u>Bongiorno</u> fail to disclose all of the features as recited in claim 1, for example. However, the Examiner asserts that <u>Bright</u> makes up for the deficiencies of both <u>Srey</u> and <u>Bongiorno</u>. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As previously mentioned, <u>Bright</u> discloses a security system for data processing, whereby the security system includes a Hard-Node unit, which can encrypt/decrypt data passed to it by a host machine and return the results to the machine (see column 2, lines 35-40). However, the Hard-Node unit is stored in a high secure enclosure, such as a locked bank vault for example, which is not physically accessible except under appropriate conditions to restricted personnel, the hard wall maintains the security of the encryption process and also enclosed the interfaces with the host machine (see column 2, line 62 – column 3, line 1, for example). In addition, as shown in FIG. 2, the Hard-Node unit includes a door and a door-open sensor to detect the opening and closing of the door, and to supply signals to a CPU of the Hard-Node unit. Thus, the Hard-Node unit is <u>not</u> insertably connected to and disconnected from the Host machine (i.e. external device). Instead, it is a separate unit enclosed in a vault, for example, and connected to the host machine via an I/O link as shown in FIG. 1, for example. That is, Bright does not teach or even suggest that the Hard Node 30 includes a connector part configured to directly connect to a slot part of the host machine so that the Hard Node 30 insertably connects to and disconnects from the host machine 32.

Further, in regards to the rejection of claim 18, claim 18 recites "the electronic device comprising...a data converter". That is, in this embodiment of the present invention, the data converter is inside of the electronic device. The Hard-Node unit of <u>Bright</u> is not included in but merely connected indirectly and externally to the host machine. Further, claim 18 has been amended to recite features somewhat similar to those recited in amended claim 1.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claims 1 and 18, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other rejected claims over the cited references.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertions of obviousness as mentioned at pages 3-5 of the Office Action.

Therefore, the combination of Srey, Bongiorno and Bright fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness over the present invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

II. CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.
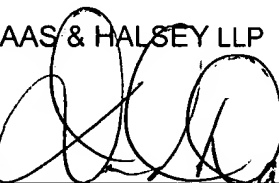
Respectfully submitted,

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